GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1646
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2007
RISING SEA LEVEL
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any island on the Indian side of the Indo-Bangladesh border has been submerged due rising sea level as reported in the Times of India dated December 23, 2006.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) whether any report has been received in this matter ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government and the safeguards evolved against such threats?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&b). Observations show that there is no significant sea level rise in the recent past. Records of coastal tide gauges in the north Indian Ocean, for more than 40 years has estimated sea level rise between 1.06-1.75 mm per year with a regional average of 1.29 mm. The global sea level rise estimates reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is 1 to 2 mm per year. According to the Report published in Times of India on December 23, 2006, satellite imageries did not map two islands namely Suparibhanga and Lohacharra in Sunderban area. The submergence of islands and coastal areas is a complex process where several factors are involved.

(c)&d) An initial assessment of the possible scenario of global warming in different parts of India has been carried out by scientists of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. These results have been published by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in their National Communication-I, submitted to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). As per this report the warming, by the year 2070, is expected to lie in the range of 1.5-2.0 Â° C and it would more or less uniformly distributed over most parts of India. It is however, expected to be slightly higher over the North West Indian region.

(e) Global warming and sea level rise are global phenomena which are complex in nature. Coordinated efforts are being undertaken under world bodies to sensitise against consumption of hydro carbons and looking for alternatives energy sources.